

## **REMEDIATION AND REDEVELOPMENT (RR) NEWS FROM WISCONSIN DNR**

December 9, 2004

### **BOARD REVIEWS PROPOSED DNR BUDGET**

DNR's Natural Resources Board (NRB) considered the proposed agency budget at its December 7-8 meeting. The budget documents are on the DNR web site at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/nrboard> and are divided into two parts, budget reductions and revenue proposals. DNR proposed to cut 173 full-time positions by the end of the biennium. The RR Program is expected to eliminate 10 authorized positions, but plans to address this reduction through vacancies available by the end of the next biennium. However, RR staff could be affected if reductions in other programs lead staff to exercise their seniority rights through labor agreements. The governor and the Legislature also will take action on the budget and there may be changes to the proposed budget at any step in the process, which is expected to continue for at least six months. If you have questions about the RR Program in the next state budget, you may contact Mark Giesfeldt at 608-267-7562 or [Mark.Giesfeldt@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:Mark.Giesfeldt@dnr.state.wi.us)

### **PECFA CLAIMS REMAIN BELOW MONTHLY ALLOTMENTS**

The Department of Commerce reported at the end of October that PECFA (Petroleum Environmental Cleanup Fund) claims over the past 12 months were running an average of \$300,000 per month below the monthly allotment for claims of \$5.7 million. More recently claim levels have fallen even further, with average monthly claims at \$4.2 million since July. In addition to monthly claims, however, Commerce estimated that over \$60 million in PECFA eligible work has not yet been submitted for payment. PECFA financial information is available at <http://www.commerce.state.wi.us/ER/ER-PECFA-Home.html>

### **DON'T FORGET YOUR CASE CLOSURE FORMS**

Consultants need to remember that the Case Summary and Close Out form is required for review of their case closure requests. This form is on our web site under Publications (right sidebar) at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/>

Click on "Forms" for the alphabetical list of forms. Some consultants are still sending their requests for case closure without completing the form, which delays their request. Be sure to use the current form, which was revised in June and includes a requirement to include the size in acres of the parcels being closed. Regional staff report that omission of the DNR form happens most often when a site review is transferred from Commerce to DNR at the time of closure review.

### **CLOSURE REQUESTS AND THE GIS REGISTRY PACKET**

We've received some excess copies of GIS Registry "packets" of information with the Case Summary and Close Out form. Only one GIS Registry packet is needed for each closure request. Section H of the form provides a checklist of institutional control attachments that are included in each submittal, such as the GIS Registry, deed restrictions and deed notices. This section is intended only to let the DNR project manager know that a GIS Registry packet is included for soil, for groundwater or for both. Section I lists the detailed the information that needs to be in each GIS packet and shows the order in which this information should be organized. Please do not submit two copies of the GIS packet in an attempt to satisfy both section H and section I.

The directions on the case closure form say to:

- include all GIS Registry information in Section I as a stand-alone document and not to refer to materials in other attachments,
- to include copies of all off-source property and ROW notifications, and
- to place a checkmark (attached) or write NA (not applicable) in the blank next to each attachment.

The checklist for GIS packets is on the web at

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/archives/pubs/RR688.pdf>

### **IMPROVEMENTS TO THE GIS REGISTRY ARE COMING**

Improvements to the GIS Registry are scheduled in the next week or two. These changes are based on suggestions from internal and external users. The improvements will include:

1. Wisconsin Transverse Mercator (WTM) coordinates can now be printed on a map.
2. All functions for finding a site have been consolidated under the Find Location tab.
3. The instructions and frequently asked questions have been updated.
4. It will be easier to find information about property that has been affected by contamination but is not the source of the contamination (off-source property).
5. The search functions have been expanded in order to make it easier to locate a specific property.

If you have questions on these changes you may contact Jane Lemcke at 608-267-0554 or at [Jane.Lemcke@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:Jane.Lemcke@dnr.state.wi.us). The GIS Registry is on the web at

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/gis/index.htm>

### **NATIONAL VACANT PROPERTIES CAMPAIGN**

A national vacant properties campaign is offering technical assistance to help define practices and legislation to address vacant, blighted, and abandoned properties. They expect to be able to provide \$30,000 to \$70,000, at least half of total costs, at 4 to 6 projects. Requests are due on **January 14, 2005**. For background information, please see <http://www.vacantproperties.org/>

For more information please see "Request for Proposals – Vacant Property" on the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) web site at <http://www.lisc.org>

You may also contact Lisa Mueller Levy at [llevy@lisc.org](mailto:llevy@lisc.org) if you have questions.

### **FEDERAL BROWNFIELDS TAX INCENTIVE REMINDER**

The federal tax incentive to encourage brownfield cleanup has been extended until December 31, 2005. This deduction allows a federal taxpayer to claim qualified remediation costs as deductions in the year incurred, rather than spreading them out over several years. To use the deduction, a taxpayer should complete a form available on the RR web site and obtain DNR concurrence that the property meets the requirements. For more information about the tax credit, and a link to the form, see the RR web site at [http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/financial/fed\\_tax.html](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/financial/fed_tax.html) or contact Percy Mather at 608-266-9263, or [Percy.Mather@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:Percy.Mather@dnr.state.wi.us)